Agri-clinics

346. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided, some time back, a few hundred agri-clinics in the country in tandem with the reputed business and commercial houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any such agri-clinic has been set up and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if the scheme is still a non-starter, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether it is proposed to implement the scheme expeditiously and in right earnest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYANYADAV): (a) No Sir. The main aim of the Central Sector Scheme 'Establishment of a Network of Agri-clinics and Agri-business Centres is to generate employment opportunities for agriculture graduates and utilize their services to be put to use by every farmer, by encouraging them to set up their own Agri-clinics and Agribusiness centres.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to available reports, around 279 agri-Clinics and Agri Business Centres have been set up by Agriculture Graduates themselves across the country.

(d) and (e) The scheme has already been launched in 2001. The scheme has generated good response a'mong Agriculture Graduates and 16,471 applications have been received as on 10th February, 2003 out of which 1,865 Agri Entrepreneurs have been trained and 1,200 are presently undergoing training under this scheme.